

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 07506 250419Z
ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /025 W
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DEPT PASS OPIC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, ASEAN, ETRD, MY
SUBJECT: INVESTMENT MISSIONS

REF: STATE 149314

1. ACCORDING TO REPORT IN MALAYSIAN "BUSINESS TIMES"
OF JULY 21, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO SEND AN
OFFICIALLY SPONSORED INVESTMENT MISSION TO THE ASEAN REGION
IN OCTOBER. OUR SOURCES IN THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HAVE INDICATED
THAT THE PROBABLY DATES ARE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER BUT
HAVE NOT YET BEEN FINALIZED. THE TEAM WILL CONTAIN REPRESENTATIVES
FROM MITI AND VARIOUS PRIVATE SECTOR GROUPS. ONE OF THE MAIN
PURPOSES OF THE TRIP IS TO DETERMINE WHY JAPANESE INVESTMENT
HAS SLOWED DOWN IN THE ASEAN REGION. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY
TOLD US THAT THE GROUP WILL ALSO DISCUSS TRADE POLICY ISSUES.

2. THIS MEANS THAT THE INVESTMENT CALENDAR IS NOW FILLING
UP FOR MALAYSIA WITH THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR,
LEADING A MISSION TO THE US SEPTEMBER 22 TO OCTOBER 12, THE
JAPANESE MISSION IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER,
A SEPARATE GOM MISSION TO JAPAN (AGAIN LED BY THE DPM)
IN LATE OCTOBER AND FINALLY THE POTENTIAL US MISSION
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 5-8. THIS IN NO WAY
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LEADS US TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO RESCHEDULE
OUR MISSION BUT ONLY THAT WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF SOME
ADDITIONAL WRINKLES THAT WILL REQUIRE EXTRA IRONING.

3. WITH RESPECT TO DR. MAHATHIR'S MISSION IN SEPTEMBER
(WE ARE SENDING COMPLETE ITINERARY BY SEPTTEL), THE
FEDERAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FIDA-THE GOM

AGENCY TASKED WITH INVESTMENT PROMOTION) HAS REQUESTED SOME ASSISTANCE, IF POSSIBLE, FROM OPIC. AS WILL BE REMEMBERED FROM THE DISCUSSIONS MESSRS. MIDDLETON AND HOLLYWOOD HAD WITH FIDA AND THE EMBASSY, IT WAS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL (IF THE OPIC INVESTMENT MISSION IS DECIDED ON) TO TRY TO TIE IN A BIT WITH THE GOM'S MISSION AND THE FACT THAT MALAYSIA'S ATTRACTIVE AND ARTICULATE DPM WILL BE IN THE US A MONTH BEFORE THE US MISSION AND THE FACT THAT MALAYSIA'S ATTRACTIVE AND ARTICULATE DPM WILL BE IN THE US A MONTH BEFORE THE US MISSION REACHES MALAYSIA. FIDA HAS REQUESTED THAT OPIC ASSIST THEM IN SEEING IF ONE OF THE MAJOR US BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE WILLING TO HOST A DINNER FOR THE GOM MISSION (OF PERHAPS 10 PEOPLE) WHILE IN NEW YORK FROM OCTOBER 1-3. WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF SENIOR OPIC OFFICIALS COULD COME TO NEW YORK AND HOST A DINNER FOR DR. MAHATHIR AND MR. ROBINSON SO AS TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE US MISSION. IF THESE SUGGESTIONS MEET WITH APPROVAL, SUGGEST OPIC CONTACT THAT FIDA OFFICE IN NEW YORK (WHICH IS COORDINATING DR. MAHATHIR'S MISSION) TO DISCUSS DETAILS. PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED AS TO ANY ARRANGEMENTS MADE. ANY ASSISTANCE OPIC CAN OFFER WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THE GOM AND WILL HELP US WHEN WE CALL ON THEM FOR ASSISTANCE IN NOVEMBER.

MILLER

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